

SENATOR DeCAMP: ...on how we could address this particular problem because there was a couple million lost in that manner in the Grand Island tornado. We came up with a proposal. The Insurance Department agreed on it. We found out it was unconstitutional. We are going back to the drawing board and trying to address that particular problem and we hope you will work with us because you are in the insurance business this summer.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is to advance LB 275 to E & R for review. All those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The bill is advanced. The next bill, LB 459.

CLERK: LB 459 was introduced by the Retirement Systems Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 20 of this year. It was referred to Retirement for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Retirement Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I would move for adoption of those committee amendments. LB 459 deals with the results of an interim study and I am having handed out to you a little booklet that indicates the work product which is a set of principles as far as retirement plans. LB 459 implements two of those principles. One is what the benefit level should be at the point of retirement and the other is, what should be the maximum contribution rate by the employee. The committee amendments deal with two of the systems in the bill. The bill covers the County Employee System, the State Employee System and the Judges Retirement System. The committee amendment covers two of those. The bill mandates an increase in the contribution level for the County Employee System so as to try and bring county retirement closer to the desired goal with regards to final retirement benefit. As this is a mandate on county government we are having a one time exclusion from the spending lid in the amendment. The amendment suggests a one time exclusion only of the additional cost of this mandate as a new program and that takes the language of the spending lid, calls this a new program and exempts it for one time only. County officials requested this.